



WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS
IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?

THE
VERY BEST
25¢

THE SHADOW

NO. 9

MAR.

30684

THE

Shadow

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



"NIGHT OF THE
FALLING DEATH!"

GANG WARS, DEPRESSION, AND CRIME--TIMES WHEN THE VIOLENCE OF EVIL WAS MET BY THE VIOLENCE OF GOOD... WHEN THE SELF-PROCLAIMED VIGILANTE OF DARKNESS, THE SHADOW, DEALT OUT HIS OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE ON...



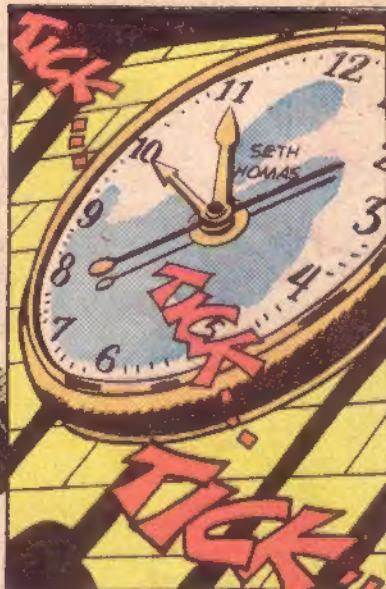
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DEATH ROW-- AND THE LAST **FADING** MINUTES OF A MAN'S LIFE! THEY SAY THAT KNOWING THE **EXACT** TIME WHEN ONE IS GOING TO **DIE** IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN **INSANE**...

GUARD!
GUARD!
IN THE NAME
OF HEAVEN--
FIND THE
SHADOW!
IT'S ALMOST
MIDNIGHT!



THERE HE GOES
CRYIN' AND **SCREAMIN'**
FOR HIS **SHADOW**
AGAIN!

I SEEN **BAD** ONES
BEFORE--GUYS THAT
CRY FOR THEIR
MOTHERS--BUT
CRYIN' FOR HIS
SHADOW--?



AS THE **PREACHER** APPROACHES
HIS CELL, **YOUNG DAN HUNTER**
BREAKS DOWN...

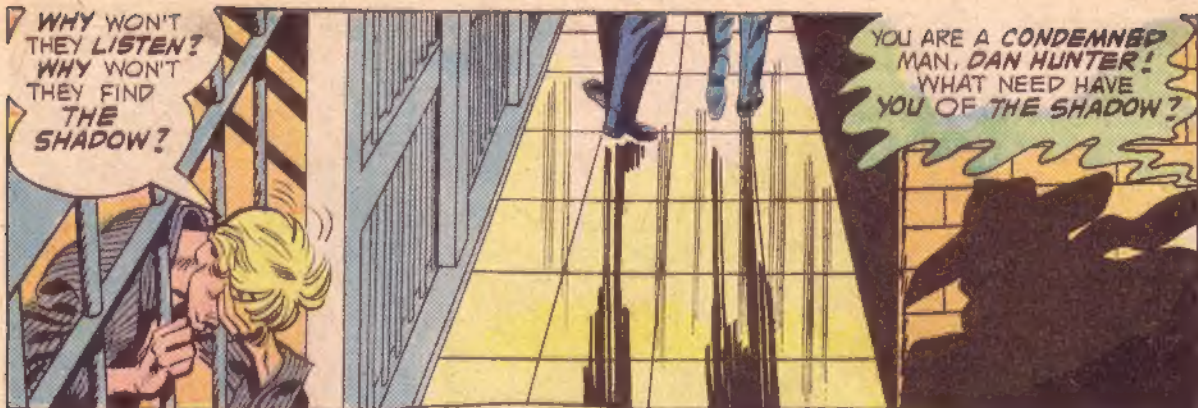
PLEASE,
FATHER! I'M
SUPPOSED TO
GET A **LAST**
REQUEST,
AIN'T I?
YA' GOTTA
GET ME
THE
SHADOW!



THERE IS NO **SHADOW**,
MY SON--ONLY **LIGHT**...
THE **LIGHT** OF ETERNAL
FAITH!



AND **DEATH** CREEPS
CLOSER TO **DAN HUNTER**!



WHY WON'T
THEY LISTEN?
WHY WON'T
THEY FIND
THE
SHADOW?

YOU ARE A CONDEMNED
MAN, DAN HUNTER!
WHAT NEED HAVE
YOU OF THE SHADOW?



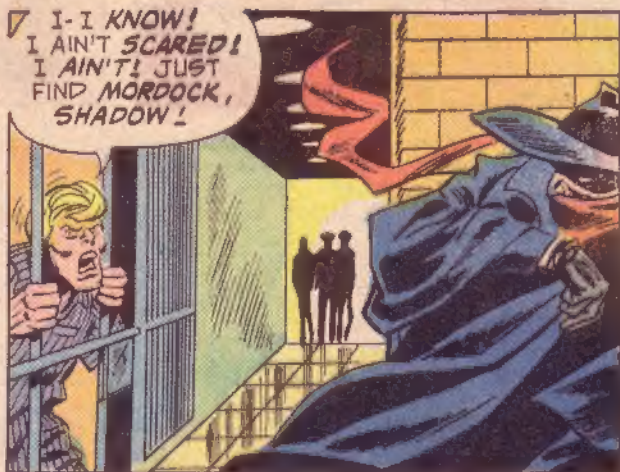
SHADOW!

LISTEN-- I WAS
GUILTY ALL RIGHT,
BUT MURDOCK SET
ME UP! HE'S THE
MERCILESS
HEAD OF A DRUG
SMUGGLING RING
OUT OF CANADA!

NO ONE'S EVER SEEN
HIM, BUT HE GIVES ALL
THE ORDERS! I'M
PAYING FOR HIS CRIMES!



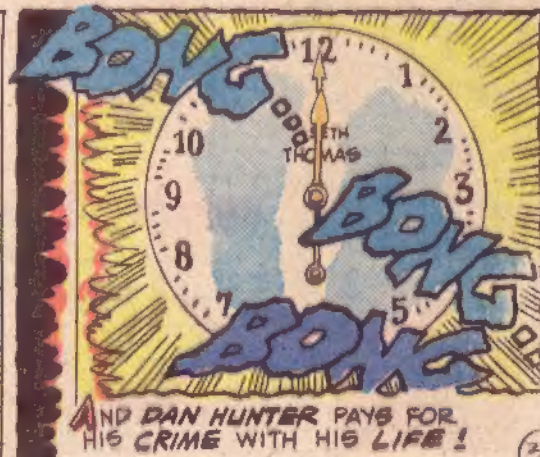
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE,
THE SHADOW WILL AVENGE
YOU! BUT YOU MUST STILL
PAY FOR YOUR OWN CRIME!



I-I KNOW!
I AIN'T SCARED!
I AIN'T! JUST
FIND MURDOCK,
SHADOW!

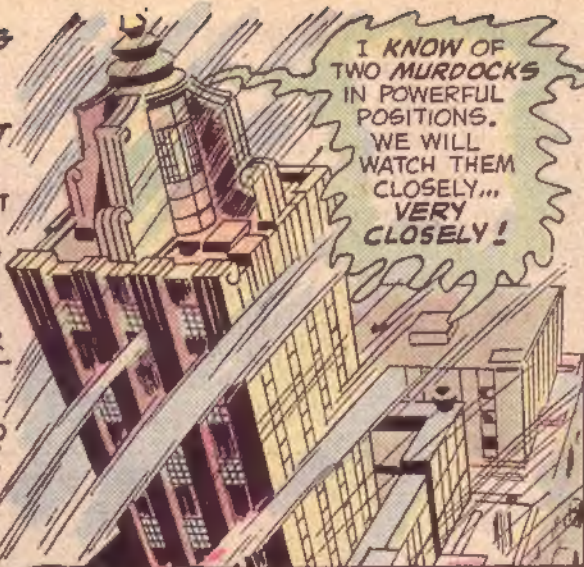


GET
HIMMM!



AND DAN HUNTER PAYS FOR
HIS CRIME WITH HIS LIFE!

A MORNING
RAIN BEATS
DOWN ON A
MID-TOWN
APARTMENT
BUILDING
THAT SEEMS
NO DIFFERENT
THAN ANY
OTHER ONE...
UNTIL WE
LOOK TO THE
THIRTY-
FIRST FLOOR
OF A STRUCT-
URE THAT IS
ONLY
SUPPOSED TO
HAVE THIRTY
FLOORS...



I KNOW OF
TWO MURDOCKS
IN POWERFUL
POSITIONS.
WE WILL
WATCH THEM
CLOSELY...
VERY
CLOSELY!

**HARRY-- YOU WILL SHADOW
MARTIN MURDOCK, THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY!**



**SHREVVY-- YOU WILL TRAIL
ROLAND MURDOCK, PRESIDENT
OF AXIS CHEMICAL CORPORATION!**



**MARGO-- YOU WILL CLOAK YOURSELF AS A
WOMAN OF THE NIGHT AND FIND OUT WHAT
YOU CAN AT THE
DOCKS!**



**THE DAY PASSES. FOR HARRY-- A DEAD-
END STREET!**



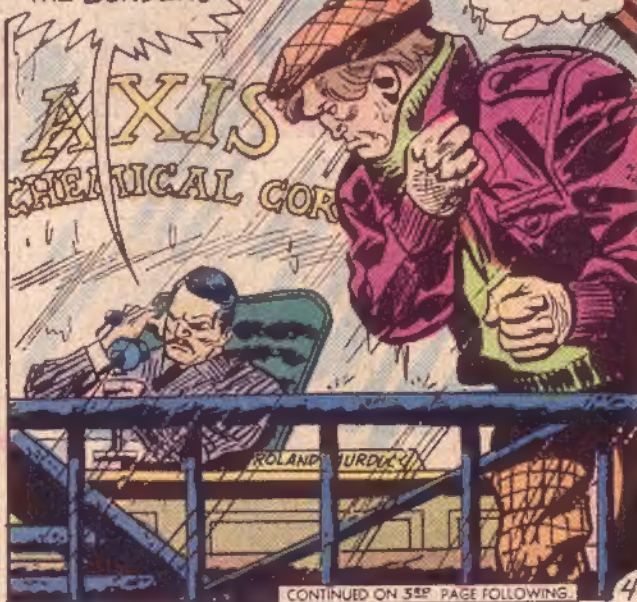
LOOKS LIKE I
MISS THE ACTION!
THE WORST THING
THIS JOE DID ALL
DAY WAS SPIT ON
THE SIDEWALK!

...BUT FOR SHREVVY--

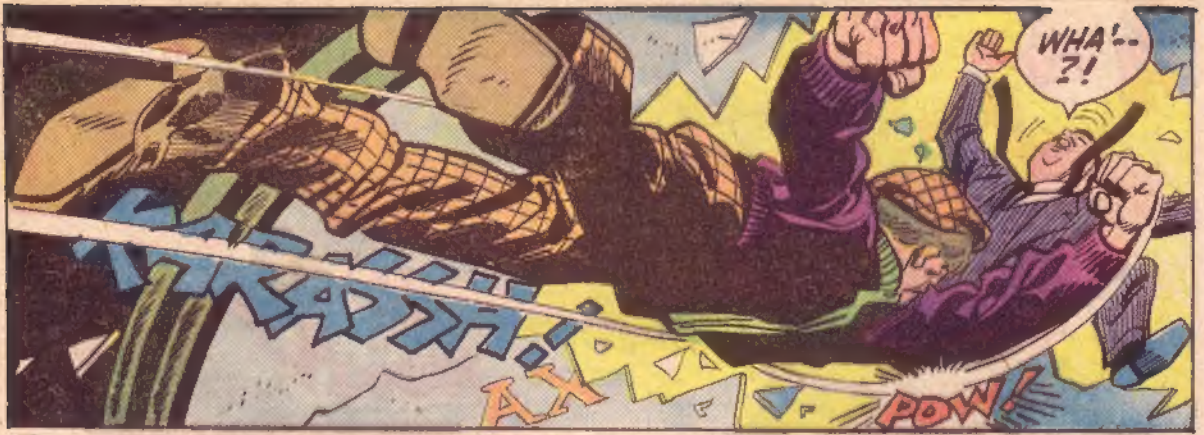
**THIS GUY'S THE ONE
THE BOSS WANTS!**

...AND I
WANT THE
BOYS TO PICK
UP THE STUFF
AS SOON AS
IT CROSSES
THE BORDER!

I BETTER
TAKE HIM
DOWN... BUT
FAST!



CONTINUED ON 55th PAGE FOLLOWING.



I INSTANTS LATER... I WILL MEET YOU AT HEAD QUARTERS!

I BAGGED THE PIGEON, BOSS! I'M BRINGIN' HIM IN!



AND MILES AWAY AT THE CITY'S ROTTING RIVER-FRONT...

C'MON, SUGAR! DON'T GO TRYIN' TO FIGHT US NOW!

FOR A DAME THAT WAS ASKIN' SO MANY QUESTIONS, YOU SURE CLAMMED UP QUICK!



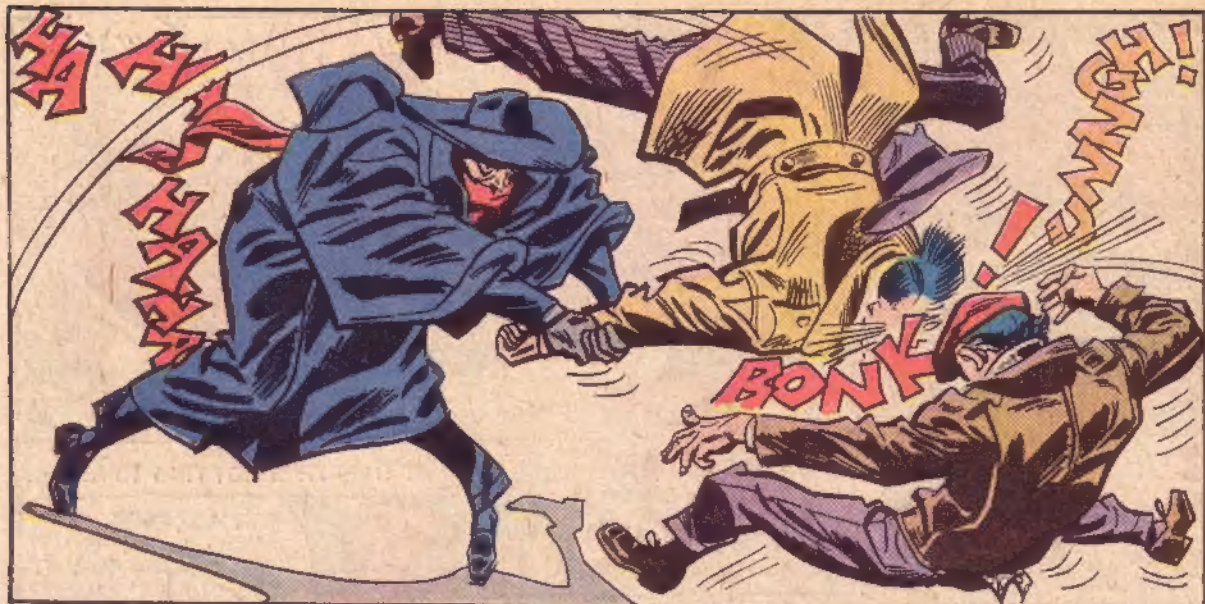
SUDDENLY--

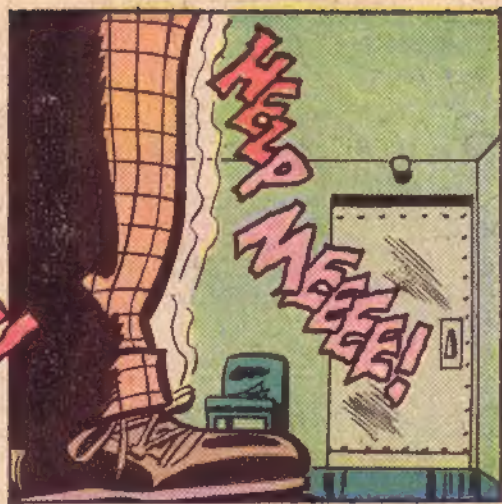


GOTCHA NOW, SPOOK!

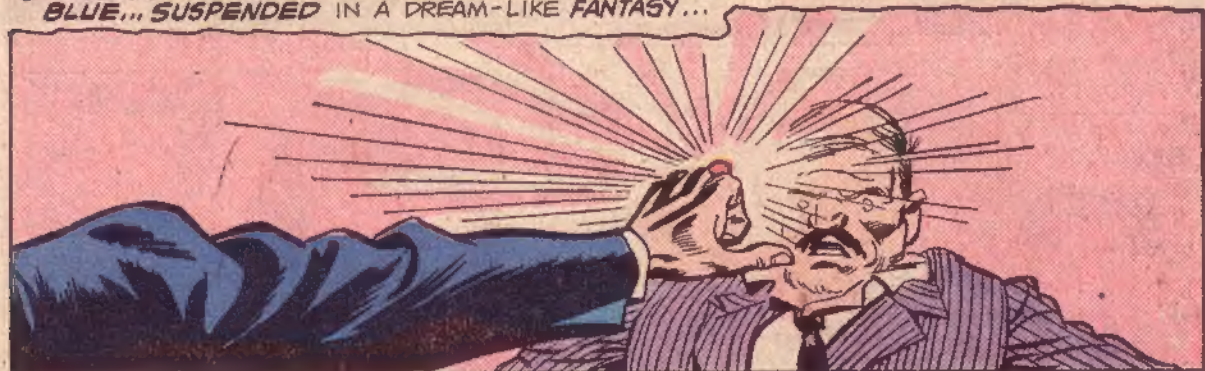
KNOCK TH' SPIT OUT OF HIM, PAUL!



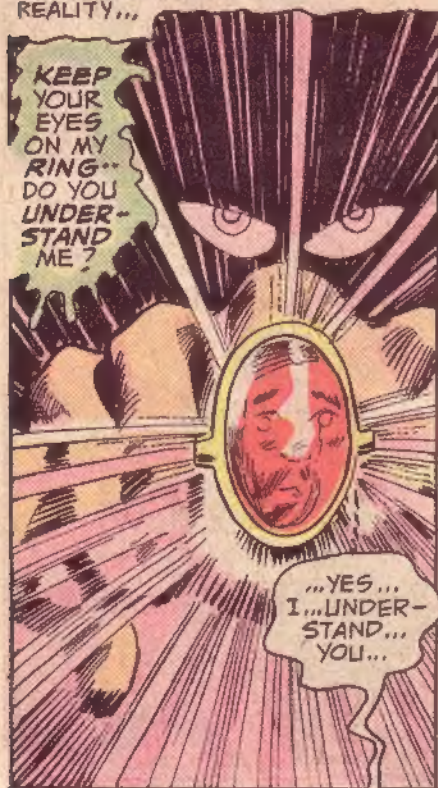




THE TERRIFIED MAN SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF **SAILING** THROUGH CLOUDS OF AZURE BLUE... **SUSPENDED** IN A DREAM-LIKE FANTASY...



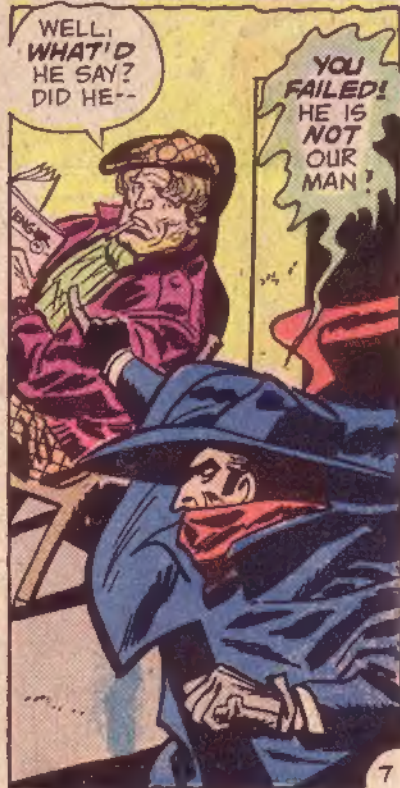
THEN THE SHADOW'S COLD, HARD VOICE LEADS **ROLAND MURDOCK'S** UNFETTERED MIND BACK TO REALITY...



HOW DOES YOUR **SMUGGLING** OPERATION WORK?



ONE ENDLESS HOUR LATER, A GRIM-FACED **SHADOW STORMS** OUT OF THE EERIE ROOM...





B-BUT I
THOUGHT--

YOU THOUGHT **WRONG**,
SHREVVY! YOU HEARD
NOTHING MORE THAN
A NORMAL BUSINESS
TRANSACTION!

YOU FAILED ME
BY SUBJECTING
AN **INNOCENT**
MAN TO THE
METHODS OF
THE **SHADOW!**

HE WILL
FORGET... BUT
YOU, SHREVVY--



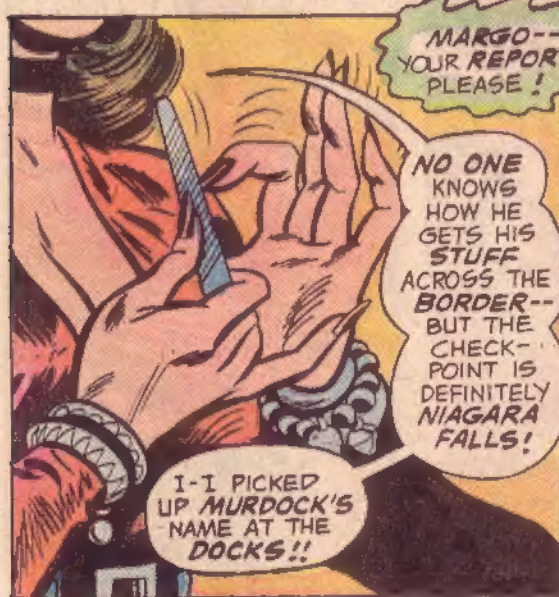
--YOU WILL
BE GOING
ON A LONG
"VACATION"!

EARLY THE NEXT DAY, THE SHADOW'S AGENTS
REPORT...



WHERE'S
SHREVVY?

GONE!
HE'LL BE
"RESTING"
FOR TWO
MONTHS!



MARGO--
YOUR REPORT,
PLEASE!

NO ONE
KNOWS
HOW HE
GETS HIS
STUFF
ACROSS THE
BORDER--
BUT THE
CHECK-
POINT IS
DEFINITELY
NIAGARA
FALLS!

I-I PICKED
UP MURDOCK'S
NAME AT THE
DOCKS!!



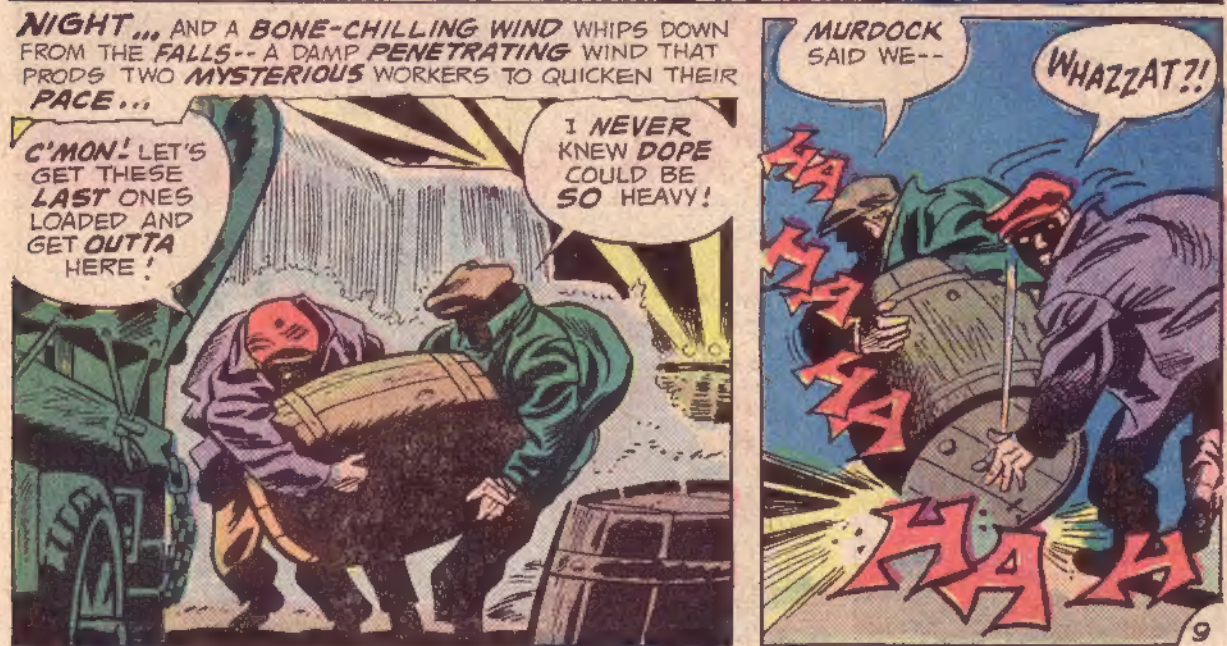
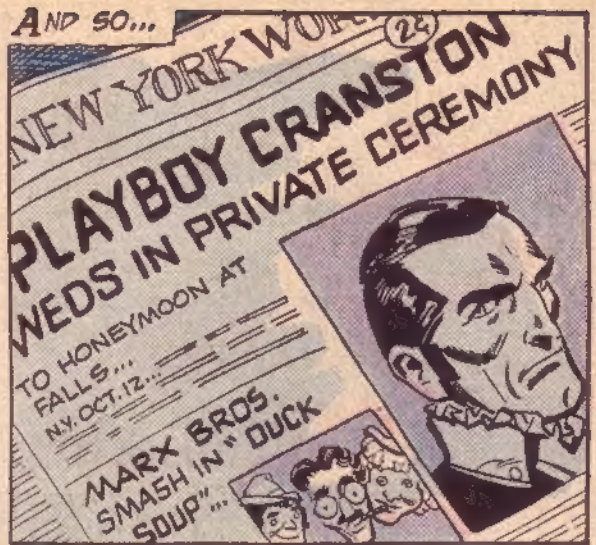
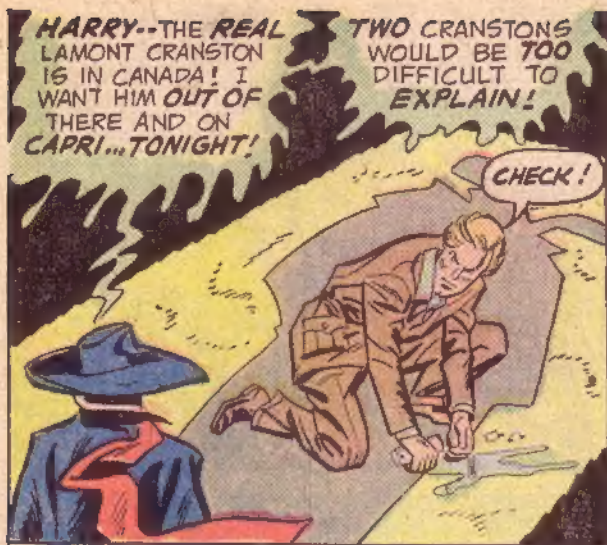
MARGO-- YOU
AND I WILL BE
GETTING
"MARRIED"
TONIGHT!

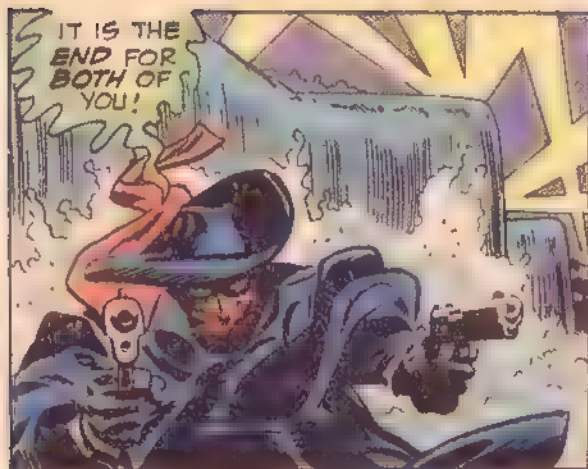
WHAT
BETTER
EXCUSE FOR
LAMONT
CRANSTON'S
PRESENCE
AT NIAGARA
FALLS--

ARRANGE
IT!

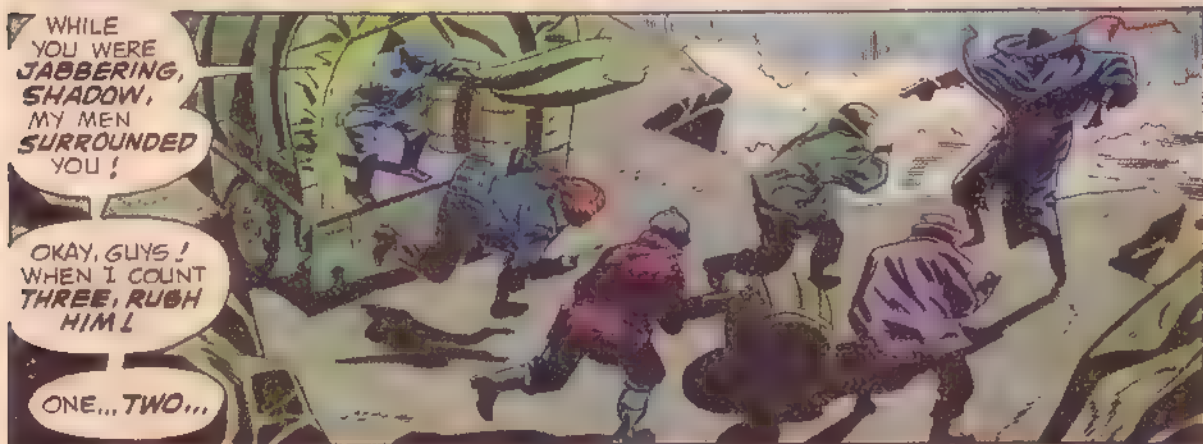
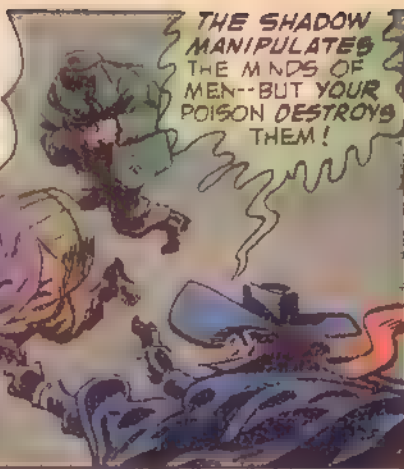
YOU
BET!

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING





WATCH IT, SANDY! THAT DUDE IS THE SHADOW! HE CAN DO THINGS TO YOUR MIND!



BUT HOW CAN THEY KILL A MAN...

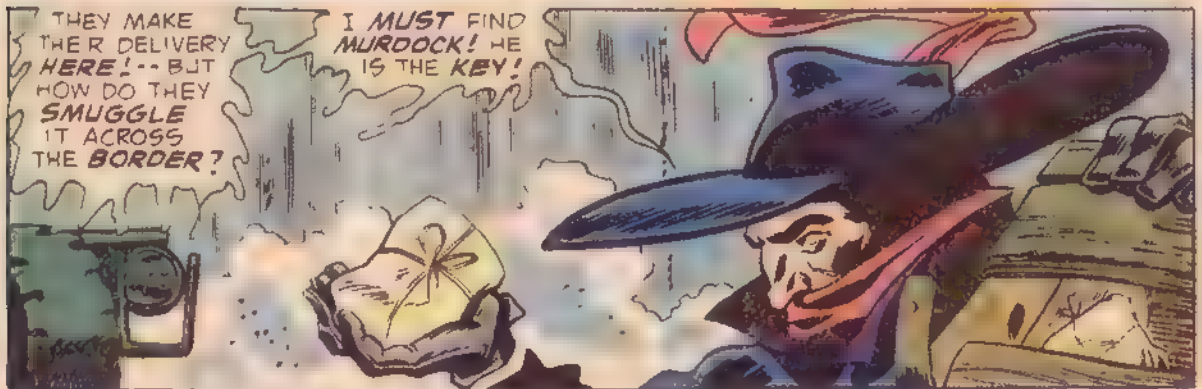


...WHO WAS NEVER THERE TO BEGIN WITH?



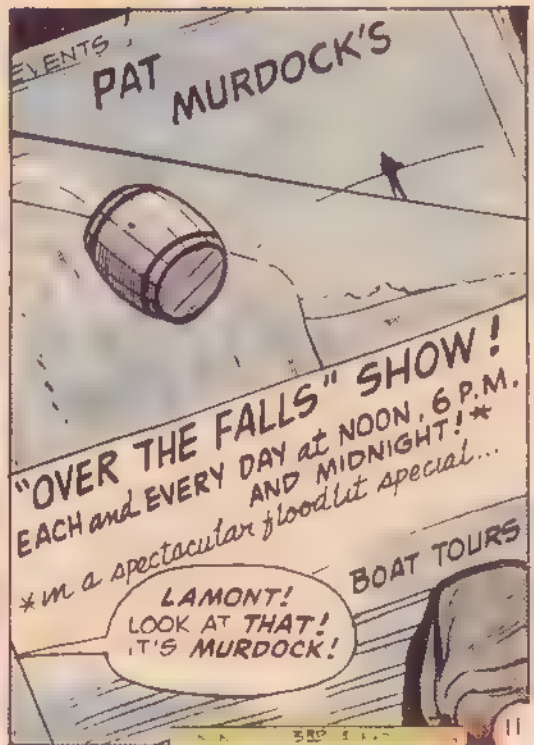
THEY MAKE
THEIR DELIVERY
HERE!-- BUT
HOW DO THEY
SMUGGLE
IT ACROSS
THE BORDER?

I MUST FIND
MURDOCK! HE
IS THE KEY!



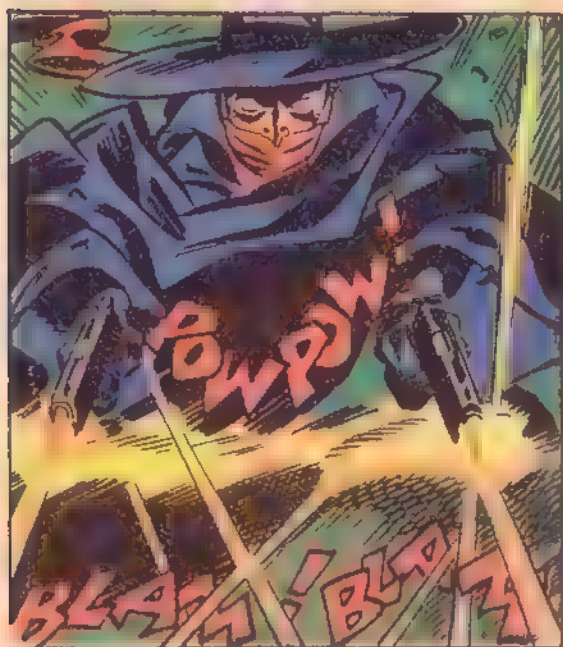
DAYLIGHT BRINGS A NEW BEAUTY TO NIAGARA
FALLS AS LAMONT AND MARGO JOIN THE
THRONGS OF HONEYMOONERS ON A BOAT TOUR...

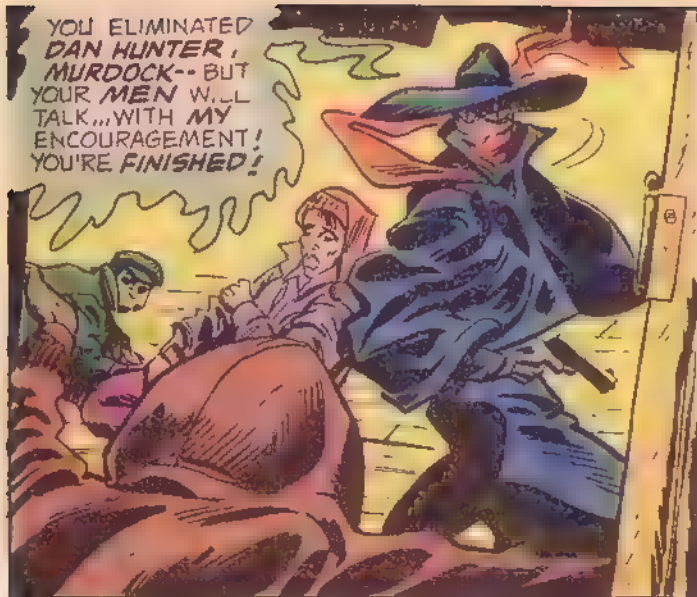
OH, THERE'S
A MAN ABOUT
TO GO OVER
THE FALLS
IN A BARREL!
MANY PEOPLE
HAVE DIED
DOING THAT!



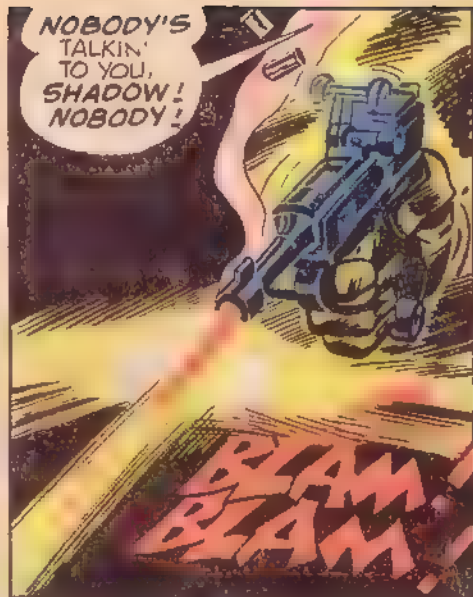
"OVER THE FALLS" SHOW!
EACH and EVERY DAY at NOON, 6 P.M.
AND MIDNIGHT! *
* in a spectacular floodlit special...
LAMONT!
LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S MURDOCK!

BOAT TOURS





YOU ELIMINATED
DAN HUNTER,
MURDOCK-- BUT
YOUR MEN WILL
TALK...WITH MY
ENCOURAGEMENT!
YOU'RE FINISHED!



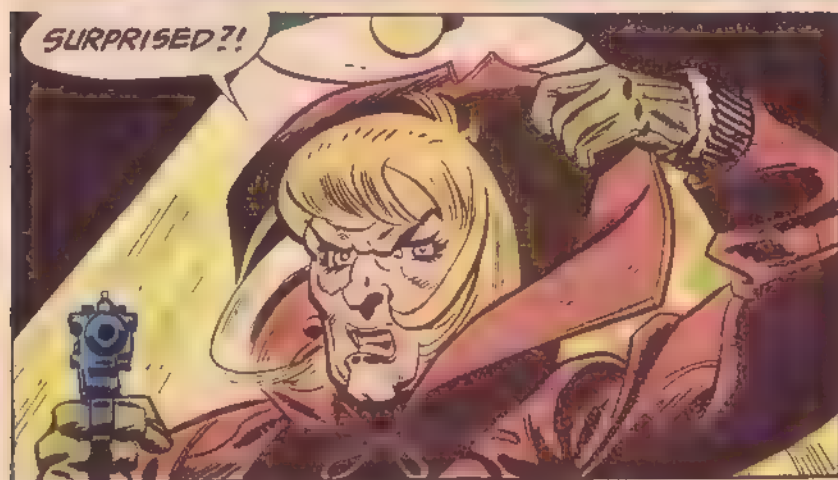
NOBODY'S
TALKIN'
TO YOU,
SHADOW!
NOBODY!

BLAM!
BLAM!



YOU SLAUGHTERED
YOUR OWN HELPLESS
MEN!

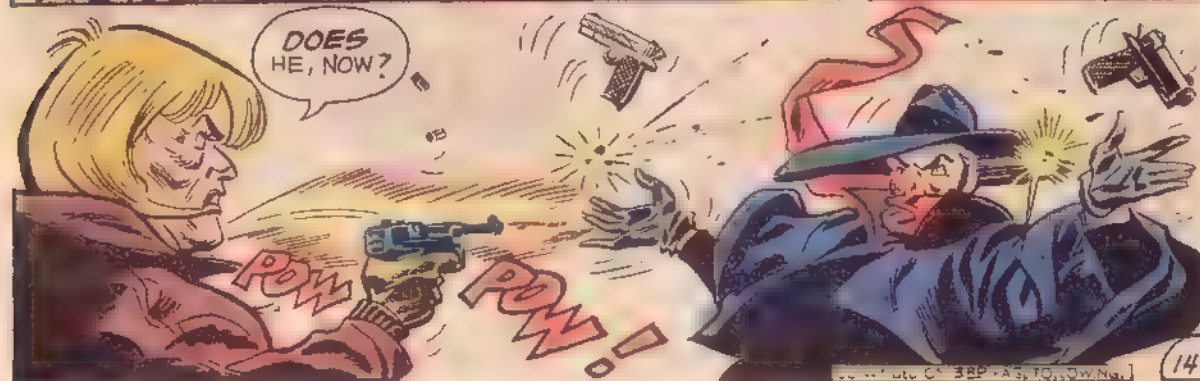
AND YOU'RE
NEXT, MISTER!
LOOK AT THE
FACE OF YOUR
EXECUTIONER!



SURPRISED?!

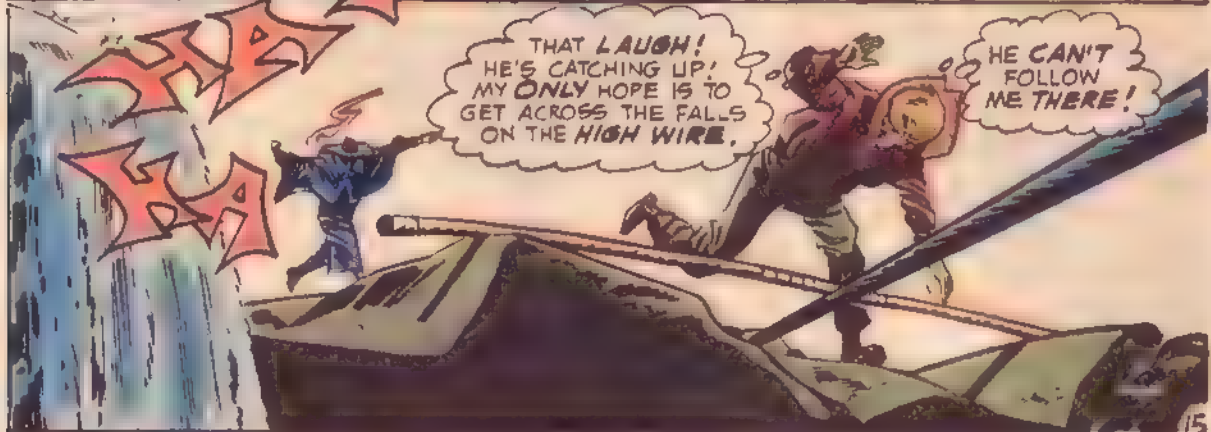
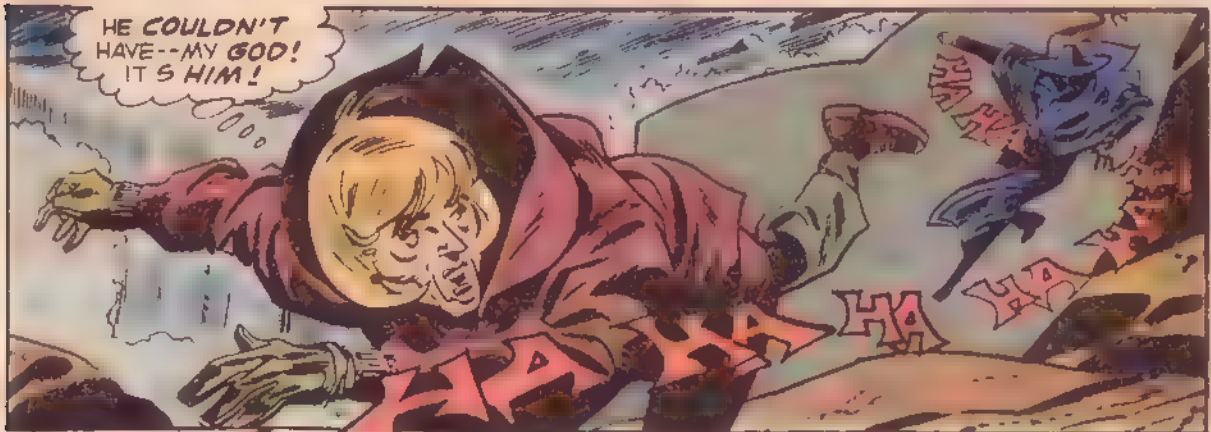
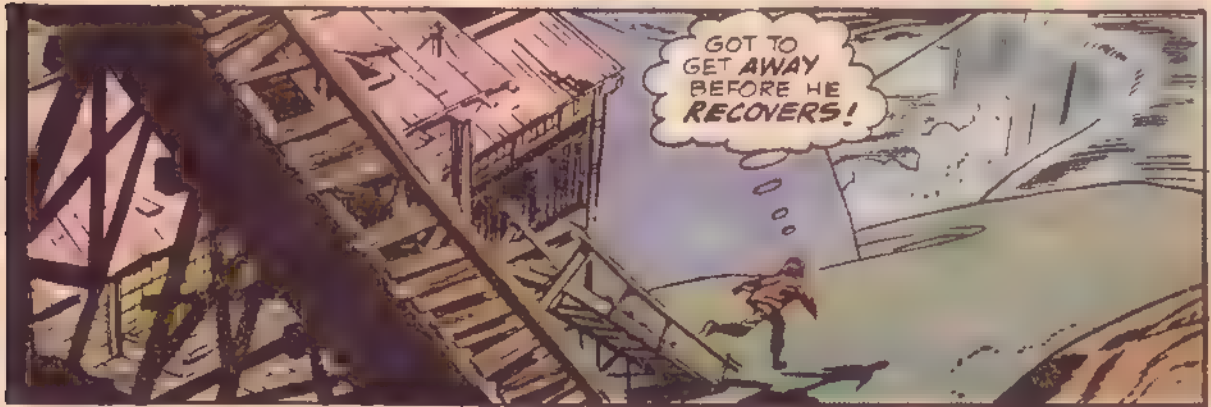
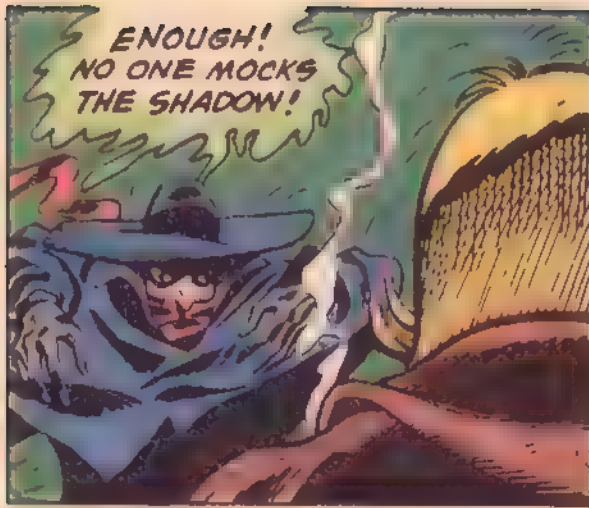


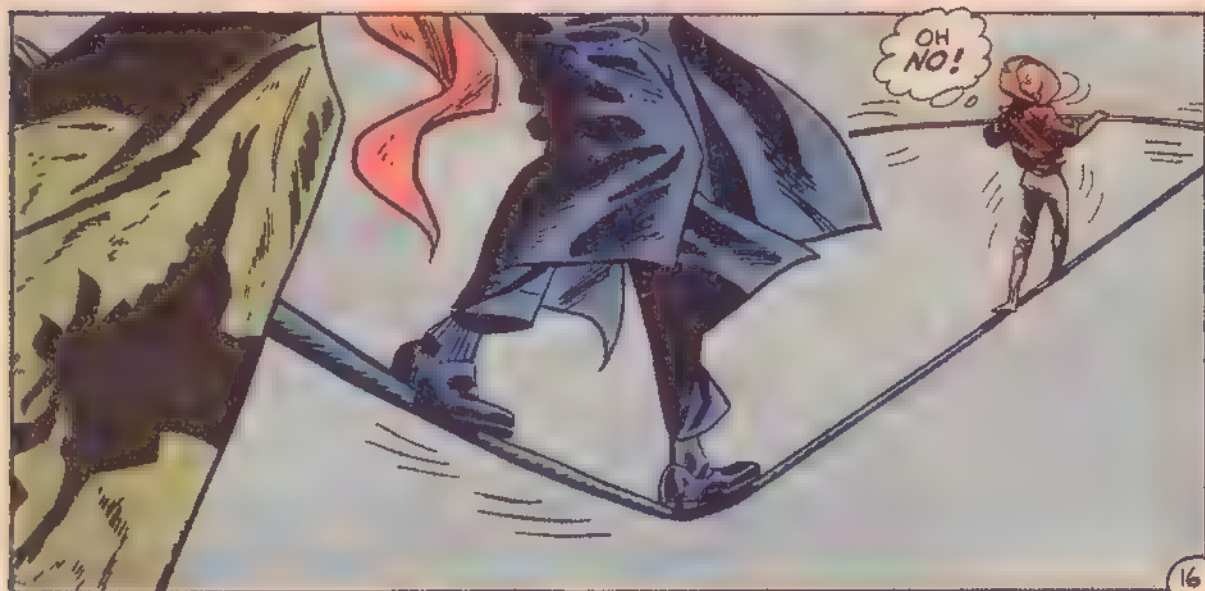
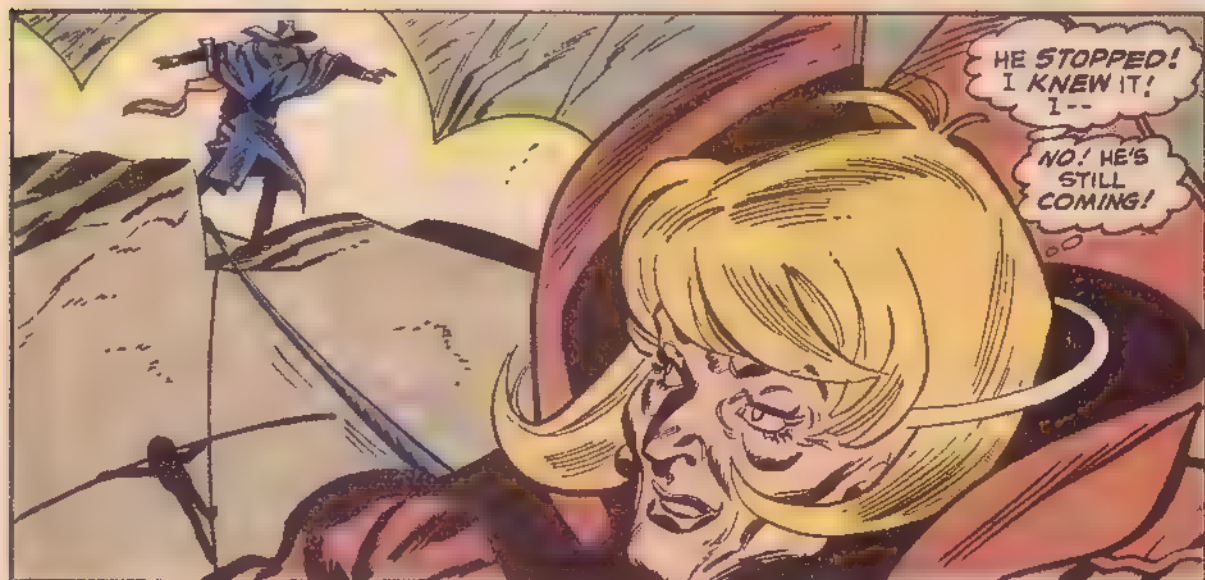
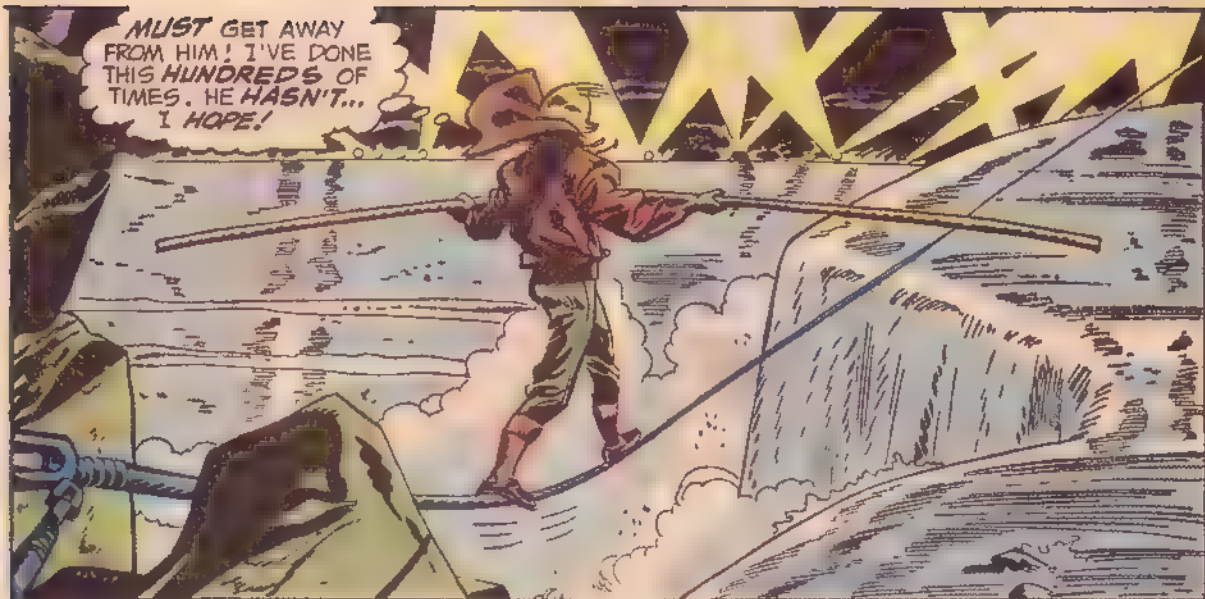
NO. THE SHADOW
KNOWS ALL!

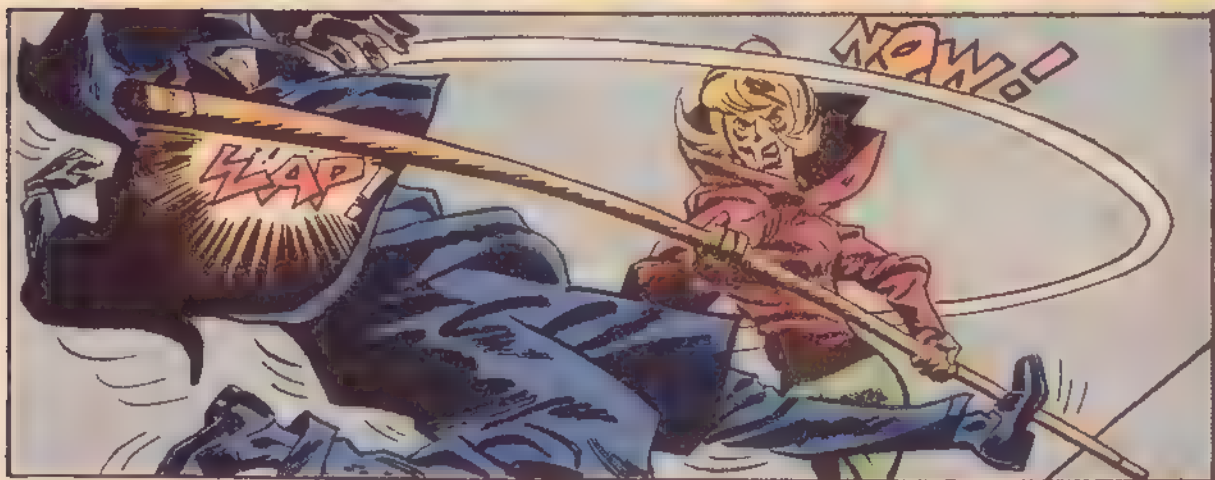
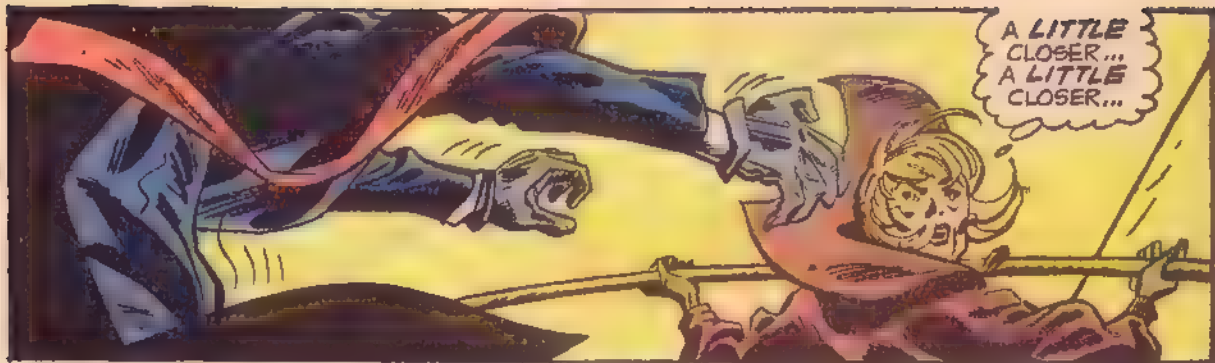


DOES
HE, NOW?

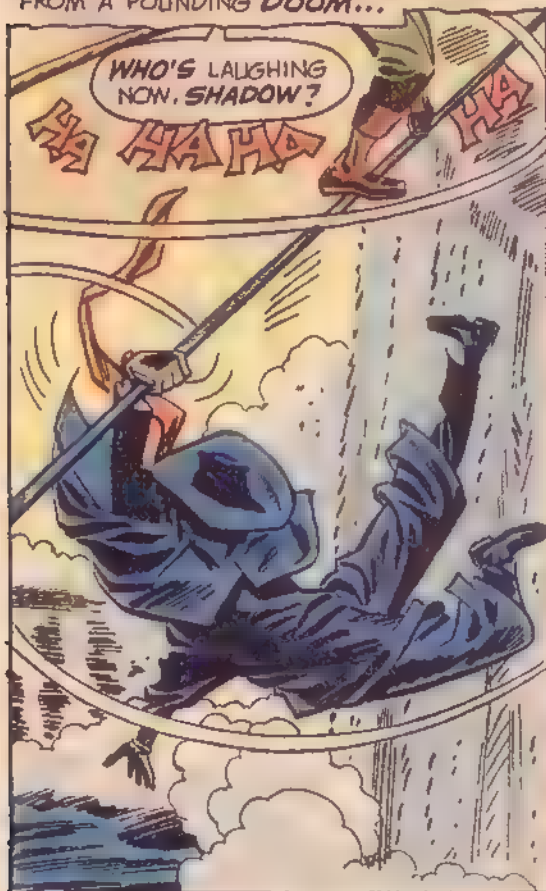
POW!
POW!

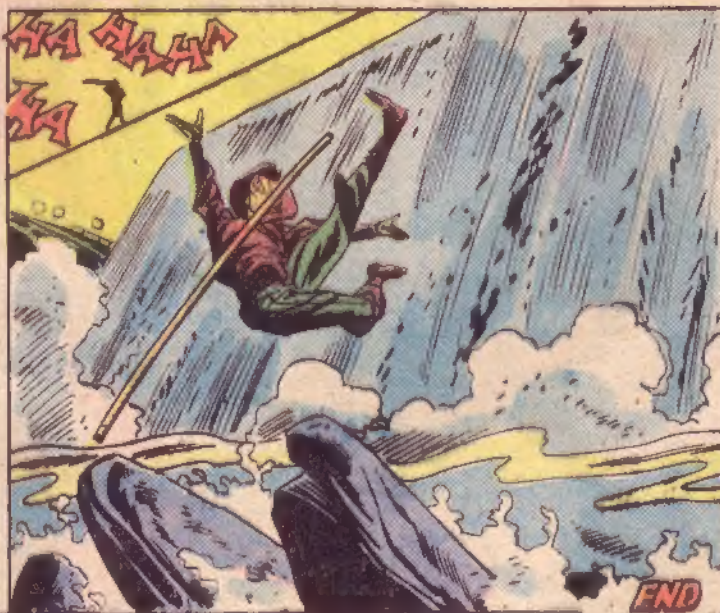
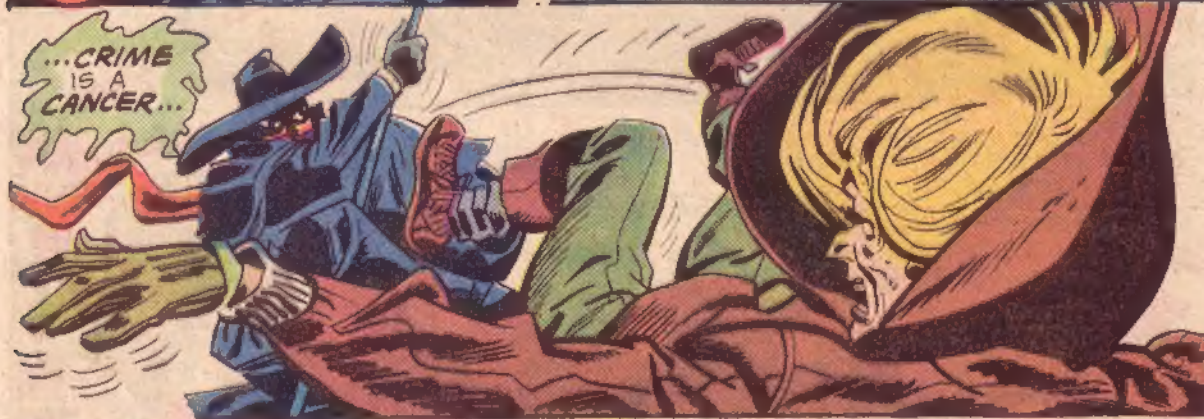






ONLY TRAINED MUSCLES AND RAZOR-SHARP REFLEXES SAVE THE SHADOW FROM A POUNDING DOOM...





NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN JANUARY

END

THE SHADOW: A DOSSIER

by Anthony Tollin

Z-253

Of the hundreds of fast-paced adventure characters that emerged to fill the need for escapism in the 1930s, no other approached the overwhelming popularity of **THE SHADOW**. The Dark Avenger moved from radio to pulp magazines, back to radio again, then to movies, hardbound and paperback books, big little books and comics; setting a publishing record almost as amazing as the character itself.

Emerging in the late 1920s as the eerie announcer of a weekly radio show, "Street and Smith's Detective Story Magazine Hour," **THE SHADOW**'s popularity grew so great that Street and Smith, the leading publisher of detective "pulp" magazines, was forced to publish a magazine version in order to secure a copyright. The first issue completely sold out and was immediately reprinted. Its quarterly status was converted to monthly with the third issue; a year later it entered the unique twice-a-month frequency it would enjoy for the next decade.

It was in the pulps that **THE SHADOW** was at his finest; his twin automatics delivering a thundering staccato of death to the underworld. In an unparalleled series of 325 novels, **THE SHADOW** brought defeat to such arch-foes as The Wasp, The Silent Seven, The Hydra, and Shiwan Khan, the evil mastermind descended from Ghengis Khan. Excitement and suspense reigned from the first story,



Victor Jory as he appeared in "THE SHADOW" (Columbia, 1940). © 1940 by Columbia Pictures

"The Living **SHADOW**," to the last, "The Whispering Eyes."

Pulp writer extraordinaire Walter B. Gibson penned an amazing 283 Shadow novels under the house name of "Maxwell Grant." It was Gibson who created the identity of Lamont Cranston, and set the format for the entire series. Working at the breakneck pace of 10,000 (sometimes 15,000) words a day on a battery of three typewriters, Gibson frequently wrote the novels in four or five days each, followed by a rest period while he waited for his fingertips to heal.

For years Gibson gave the readers clues concerning **THE SHADOW**'s background and true identity. Gradually, it was revealed that he had worked behind German lines as a spy known as the Dark Eagle. After the war, he decided to use his skills and spy network in the battle against crime.

Finally, in 1937, The pieces of the puzzle were tied together. In "**THE SHADOW** Unmasks," a landmark story, **THE SHADOW** was revealed as Kent Allard, an internationally famous aviator, supposedly "lost amid a tribe of Xinka Indians in the Yucatan Peninsula at the very time when an amazing personage known as **THE SHADOW** had first begun to harass America's unwanted gangland."

"Greatest of **THE SHADOW**'s secrets," Gibson wrote, "was the fact that the very character that had become a part of him, that of Lamont Cranston, was in itself a disguise. **THE SHADOW** had learned to live the role of Cranston, to the point where becoming Allard seemed strange indeed. His agents and a few trusted others believed that he was Cranston; though they knew that on occasion he might turn out to be almost anyone. Even in his archives, **THE SHADOW** referred to himself as Lamont Cranston, if only for convenience. Of course, this gave him the advantage of holding the Allard identity in complete reserve should future policy demand it."

The magazine's overwhelming popularity encouraged Blue Coal to sponsor a new radio show devoted exclusively to **THE SHADOW**'s adventures in 1937. Every Sunday, the bone-chilling voice of Orson Welles, radio's own "man of mystery," would ask the question, "Who knows



One of the many beautiful covers by Jerome Rozen that graced "THE SHADOW MAGAZINE" in the thirties and forties. © 1934 by Street and Smith Publications. * renewed 1962 by Conde Nast Publications, Inc.

what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" and close proclaiming "The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. Crime does not pay ... **THE SHADOW** knows!" Welles was succeeded in the role by Bill Johnstone, who played the role until Bret Morrison took over in 1944.

The radio show made no mention of the Allard identity. "**THE SHADOW**, mysterious aide to the forces of law and order," the announcer proclaimed, "is in reality Lamont Cranston, wealthy young man about town, who years ago in the Orient, learned the hypnotic power to cloud men's minds so that they cannot see him. Cranston's friend and companion, the lovely Margo Lane, alone knows to whom the voice of the invisible **SHADOW** belongs."

The character of Margo Lane was created for the radio series by the show's original writer, Harry Charlton. The pulp stories later explained that Margo had been romanced by the real Cranston on a Caribbean cruise, and attached herself to the disguised Shadow upon her return to New York. Agnes Moorhead originated the role opposite Orson Welles.

The same year, **THE SHADOW** was introduced to the silver screen in Grand National's production of "The Shadow Strikes." Rod LaRocque starred in the 1937 feature. Three years later, Victor Jory donned slouch hat and cloak in "**THE SHADOW**," a 15 chapter serial produced by Columbia. Serial veteran Kane Richmond assumed the role in a trio

of features for Monogram, "Behind the Mask," "**THE SHADOW** Returns," and "The Missing Lady."

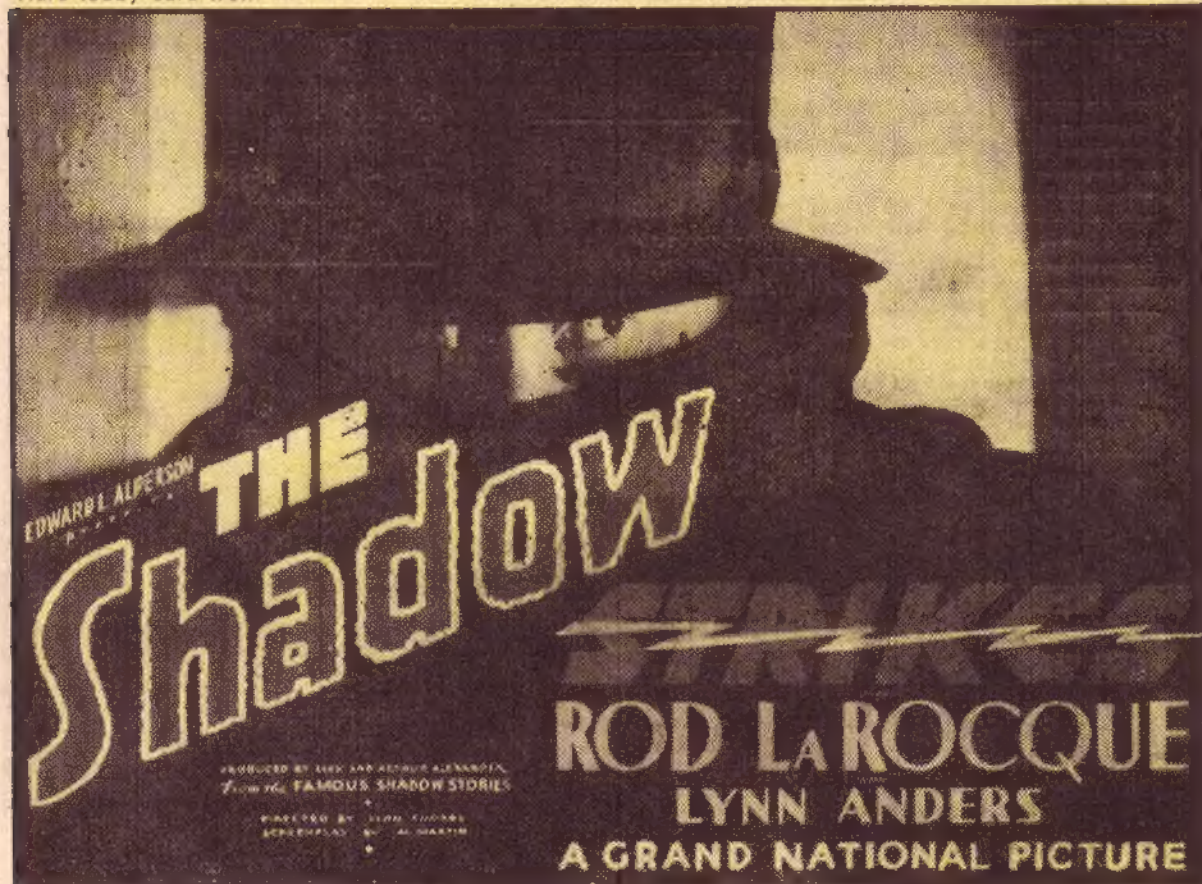
Meanwhile, **THE SHADOW** was making inroads into other areas. As early as 1934, Street and Smith had reprinted the first three novels in hard-bound form as part of their "Ideal Library" series. Six years later, Bantam Books issued a paperback version of "**THE SHADOW** and the Voice of Murder." Meanwhile, Whitman released three Big Little Books featuring illustrated stories of the Dark Avenger.

In 1940, Street and Smith issued a comic book version. Originally reprinting stories from the newspaper strip by Vern Greene, the series soon featured all new material by Bob Powell and others. One of the most popular comics of the 1940s, **THE SHADOW** comic book lasted until 1950, a grand total of 122 issues.

After the demise of the radio show in 1954, **THE SHADOW** did not appear until Belmont Books issued a series of all new paperback adventures in the early sixties. Walter Gibson returned to write the first of the new adventures, "Return of **THE SHADOW**." At the same time, the original radio adventures were re-released to thrill a new audience of listeners.

Today, **THE SHADOW**'s legion of fans can follow his adventures on radio, in the new series of paperback reprints from Pyramid Books, and every other month in our own version of ... **THE SHADOW!**

Rare lobby card from the 1937 Grand National film, "**THE SHADOW** Strikes." ~ 1937 by Grand National Films, Inc.





This portion of **THE SHADOW KNOWS** is being brought to you by Denny's new assistant, Allan Asherman. As a comics and science-fiction-fantasy fan, I've followed Denny's work for quite a while, and it was with a great deal of enthusiasm that I accepted the wisdom of Sol Harrison who, one day during lunch in the old Warners Building cafeteria, suddenly said "... So how does it feel, being Denny O'Neil's new assistant?"

One of my first duties as such was to go through the huge pile of letters addressed to **THE SHADOW KNOWS**. One immediately caught my attention, as it was written on black paper in red ink (at least I THINK it's ink)! It was postmarked "THE SHADOW, U.S.A." and I am reproducing it in its original, unedited form ...

O'Neil and Asherman:

Take heed! Do not pretend to know more about me than you actually do. From time to time, as I see fit, I dispense such knowledge of my operations as I am interested in having published. My origin must always remain a mystery, for such immeasurable abilities as mine are only meant to be understood by myself. Do not force me to end my illustrated diaries, and their editors. I remain, for now, your primary source through the tool of O'Neil,

THE SHADOW

And now on to the more orthodox letters of comment ...

Dear Denny:

I learned today, by way of The Comic Reader, that you plan to cancel **THE SHADOW** comic book. This disappoints me very much, as **THE SHADOW** had become my favorite title out of the 40 plus books I buy per month. Although I was not happy about the change in artists from Kaluta to Robbins, I nonetheless still enjoyed your thrilling stories immensely; you have a flair for capturing the mood of the 1930's no matter who the artist is!

Brian Delaney, Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Brian:

*Don't believe everything you happen to read in fanzines. Only **THE SHADOW** knows positively what his fate will be ... and he's still with us, as the above letter and this issue indicates!*

Dear Denny:

You're doing one fantastic job with **THE SHADOW**. I really dig it! **THE SHADOW** is one far out dud!

How can I get copies of issues number one and two? I missed them when they originally came out, and would love to get 'em to complete my set.

J.J. Bennett, Lexington, Kentucky

Dear J.J.:

We're still getting requests for these rare back numbers; rare indeed, because we used up our limited back log sometime ago, and can no longer supply them to faithful fans. You'll have to make the rounds of the comic-book conventions, or the second-hand dealers who advertise within our pages.

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Gentlemen:

"Night of the Mummy" (**THE SHADOW** #8) was Mr. O'Neil's absolutely best **SHADOW** episode to date. The plot was sufficiently complicated, and the establishing of **THE SHADOW**'s identity as NOT Lamont Cranston was a master stroke. Thank you very much for a truly fine comic book.

Conrad H. Gempf, Clifton, New Jersey

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Dear Denny:

I'd like to know whatever happened to **THE SHADOW** radio series. My dad says he listened to the show when he was little. Is there any way you can get stations to run it? Every **SHADOW** fan in the area would appreciate it!

Kenny Rogers, Hidden Hills, Calif.

Dear Kenny:

*In a future issue there will be a complete listing of radio stations currently running **THE SHADOW** radio series which is, incidentally, running widely throughout the country. Check your local listings, and you MAY be pleasantly surprised!*

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Dear Denny:

As a new reader to comic books, that is for the first time in 20 years, I thought I'd share the reasons for my starting again. I accidentally ran into issue #1 of **THE SHADOW**, and bought it out of nostalgia, curiosity ... and I actually enjoyed reading it! Then I rounded up issues #2 and #3, and I now have the complete set of your **SHADOW** books.

A few words of advice, though. Without that "pulp magazine" quality, **THE SHADOW** would just not work as well. The elements of both pulp and radio series should be used to make **THE SHADOW** as invincible and mysterious a character as possible. After all, even his OWN AGENTS don't know the truth about the guy!

Vincent Ellis, Pueblo, Colo.

Will the editorial staff of **THE SHADOW** brave the Dark Avenger's wishes and reveal his true origin? Only time will tell.

But you don't have to wait to read the detailed history of **THE SHADOW** in mass-media, which follows immediately.

Allan Asherman
Assistant Editor

And remember ... **THE WEED OF CRIME BEARS BITTER FRUIT ... CRIME DOES NOT PAY ... THE SHADOW KNOWS!!**